

Guide Him Through These Mysteries

It is a lot of fun
to care about someone
who is younger than you, and to think
you know so many more answers
than he will discover
for himself, and to confide in him
the wisdom of your experience
and to guide him through
these mysteries of life
and to look at his face and see
he has been allowing it
and loves you anyway.

-- Ann Menebroker

Wilton, Calif.

Rock for Madam Dusty

Madam Dusty
hobbled over to her looking glass
sprayed herself with eau de cologne
painted a scarlet wound on her mouth
where breath went out and in
flabby Madam Dusty

Madam Dusty
danced with a fop
bony under his powdery skin

Madam Dusty
danced
her face got longer
her cheeks fell in
and he chased her into a corner
long-faced Madam Dusty

while the green things came up
the leaves little
the tall white flowers
the green things came up
as they always do

and the sun shone golden on the web
and the atoms danced the deathless dance of death